

Claims

1. An apparatus comprising:
a full-length leaf spring having a first end, a second end, and an intermediate section between the first and second ends, the first end pivotally connected to a small utility vehicle frame;
a half-length leaf spring having a first end and a second end, the first end pivotally connected to the small utility vehicle frame; and
a spacer plate between the intermediate section of the full-length leaf spring and the second end of the half-length leaf spring, the spacer plate being the only connection point between the full-length leaf spring and the half-length leaf spring.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a threaded connector extending between the intermediate section of the full-length leaf spring, the spacer plate, and the second end of the half-length leaf spring.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the full-length leaf spring is positioned below the half-length leaf spring.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second end of the full-length leaf spring is unconnected to the small utility vehicle frame.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an axle mounted intermediate the full-length leaf spring and at the second end of the half-length leaf spring.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the spacer plate has a thickness less than either the thickness of the full-length leaf spring or the thickness of the half-length leaf spring.
7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the full-length leaf spring further comprises an eye at the first end thereof.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the half-length leaf spring further comprises an eye at the first end thereof.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second end of the half-length leaf spring is spaced from the full-length leaf spring when the small utility vehicle is in an unloaded condition.

10. An apparatus comprising:

a half-length leaf spring;

a full-length leaf spring under the half-length leaf spring;

the half-length leaf spring being spaced from the full-length leaf spring in a first load condition, the half length leaf spring having a first end contacting the full-length leaf spring in a second load condition heavier than the first load condition.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a spacer plate between the half-length leaf spring and the full-length leaf spring.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 further wherein the first end of the half-length leaf spring is pivotally connected to a small utility vehicle frame.

13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the full-length spring has a first end and a second end, only one end of which is pivotally connected to a small utility vehicle frame.

14. An apparatus comprising:

a dual rate leaf spring suspension having a first leaf spring and a second leaf spring, the first leaf spring being longer than the second leaf spring, each of the first and second leaf springs having one eye pivotally connected to small utility vehicle frame, the first leaf spring and second leaf spring having only one connection point therebetween.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a spacer plate between the first leaf spring and the second leaf spring.
16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the first leaf spring is below the second leaf spring.
17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the connection point is intermediate the first leaf spring and at one end of the second leaf spring.
18. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising an axle under the dual rate leaf spring suspension, the connection point being adjacent the axle.
19. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the first leaf spring is at least twice the length of the second leaf spring.
20. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the second leaf spring has an end that is spaced from the first leaf spring in an unloaded condition.